

director of the State party. Patrice then returned to Washington to serve as the scheduler, executive assistant and legislative assistant on the staff of Congressman Marion Berry of Arkansas. I personally came to know Patrice's hard work and dedication when she took time from her duties on Congressman BERRY's staff to work on my campaign for Senate in 2002. Soon after my election, Patrice came to my staff as the scheduler—and I am not sure that my good friend, Congressman BERRY, has ever forgiven me. Since that time, I have found Patrice to be an invaluable asset to my staff; so much so that earlier this year she became our office's operations director. Patrice's leadership in helping establish my Washington, DC office was instrumental. While I am sad to see Patrice leave my staff, I am proud of what she has helped our office accomplish in the past 2½ years. I am confident she will prove as valuable in her new position with a top advertising firm in Austin, TX, and I wish her nothing but the best of luck.

Melissa Moody has been involved in public service to the State of Arkansas since her graduation from the University of Arkansas. She too worked for Senator Bumpers as an intern and as a staff member before returning to Arkansas to pursue a law degree. Although she had not yet finished her studies at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law School, Melissa accepted my invitation to join my staff in the Arkansas attorney general's office during my term there. It was there that I saw what an outstanding attitude and work ethic she possesses. She later became my scheduler during my Senate campaign and later returned to Washington as my executive assistant. From the time I met Melissa 6 years ago, she has proven herself to be a dedicated, organized, hardworking, and caring employee. While the demands of her responsibilities would be overwhelming to some, she has always remained levelheaded. Her concern for others, her sense of humor, and her consistent optimism have made her a favorite of her coworkers and a good friend to me. She has been an integral part of our office's success. Melissa is moving home to Arkansas to practice law, where I am certain that the traits that allowed her to become one of my most indispensable staffers will allow her to be a successful and compassionate advocate for her clients. I wish her every success.

Both Patrice and Melissa will be missed by my staff and me. We all wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors and look forward to the day our paths will cross again.

POSTAL REFORM

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to make some remarks on S. 662, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2005. I have decided to support this leg-

islation and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I have heard from Montana's postmasters, rural letter carriers, and customers that the U.S. Postal Service faces several long-term financial challenges that must be fixed.

In the last 5 years alone, first class mail, which accounts for over half of all postal revenue, has dropped dramatically. As different ways of communicating emerge, like using e-mail, the Postal Service will continue to struggle in order to preserve delivery to every address. In other words, if something is not done, the Postal Service will struggle to maintain universal service. This bill guarantees universal service, and as a rural State, Montana relies on this assurance. The Postal Service is the only service provider available in many parts of Montana and allows residents to stay in contact with folks cross the country and the world.

This bill helps resolve the problems with the escrow account. By releasing these funds, the Postal Service would be able to minimize rate increases, help pay off debt owed to the U.S. Treasury, and assist funding health care obligations for their employees.

Recently, a Montanan called me saying, "If something is not done to preserve the Postal Service, I, along with 3000 Postal employees in Montana, will lose our jobs. We will lose, Montana will lose and most of all, America will lose." Mr. President, I agree, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2005.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELISABETH JANE FISHER

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Elizabeth Jane Fisher of Boise, ID. She has been named as one of eight national finalists for the Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award.

Ms. Fisher is being recognized for her ability to develop and use creative methods to make history interesting for her students. As a teacher at Riverstone Community School in Boise, she helps to cultivate exciting discoveries about the past. Her countless hours devoted to the Idaho National History Day have helped to promote an educationally stimulating experience for her dedicated students. She is committed to helping students develop their interests in history and recognize their achievements.

I am heartened by the fact that there are educators who devote much time and effort to shaping the minds of our young people. Teachers educate the future leaders of our country. I am happy to recognize one such teacher who truly is making a difference. Again, let me commend Elizabeth Fisher for this accomplishment. I wish her all the best as she continues her efforts in educating the children of Idaho. •

CELEBRATING ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I want to take a moment to pay tribute to Rotary International as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary this week in Chicago. Paul P. Harris' establishment of the original Chicago chapter heralded an era of philanthropic activity and community building that has flourished throughout the last century. Rotary International's extensive public service stands as an example of what we can accomplish through organization and commitment to the common good.

Since its inception, our nation has relied on the cooperation of disparate communities to achieve common goals. Rotary Clubs provide a critical forum of communication for leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds to share information and ideas. Through Rotary, men and women from myriad professions can share thoughts from their distinct perspectives. These perspectives are what gives Rotary its great strength, and have enabled the organization to accomplish so much in the last century.

Without a doubt, one of those great accomplishments has been Rotary International's work, begun in 1985, to eradicate polio through its PolioPlus program. Thanks to the efforts of Rotarians worldwide, the Western Hemisphere, Europe, and the Western Pacific have been declared polio-free. Rotary's continuing success combating polio provides hope to the world's health community as we struggle against the ravages of disease. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of S. Res. 62, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a "Rotary International Day" and celebrating and honoring Rotary International on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. Last Congress, I was also pleased to be the lead Democratic co-sponsor of S. Con. Res. 111, a resolution expressing the sense of the U.S. Congress that a commemorative stamp should be issued in honor of the centennial anniversary of Rotary International and its work to eradicate this disease.

In addition to Rotary's work to combat polio, the organization also provides indispensable support to students. The Rotary Student of the Month program consistently encourages high school students to become leaders in their schools and communities, while the Rotary scholarship program provides funds for deserving students.

The list of Rotary's contributions to our communities goes on and on. I join people across the U.S., and around the world this year who honor Rotary's many accomplishments as the organization celebrates 100 years of service. I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for the organization's next 100 years. •